

1-28-1865

**Thomas L. Evans letter to his sister Sallie from the mouth of the
White River, Arkansas, January 28, 1865**

Thomas L. Evans

Mouth of White River Ar.
January 28th, 65

Sister Lallie,

I received your letter today, also one from Father the first I have received since I left home. And I am to understand when there is good sleighing I may expect few letters. well I will try and recollect. This is Saturday night just ten o'clock. I have been very busy for the past three days but I am not "slapy" so I shall at least answer your letter before retiring. And you want to know what I have been so busy at. well we have been building a new house. This afternoon when I received your letter we had just finished it ~~where~~ & I had a tub of hot soap suds and was scrubbing the floor preparatory to moving in when I recd

your letter, so I just opened it and saw
you were well after reading fathers,
tucked yours in my pocket and made
it wait for reading until after we moved.
I stated before that we had a comfortable
cabin & so we had but it was a little
too small so we builded a larger one and
a nicer one. Liggett & I now are together and
have a cabin about 14 by 16, and a stove
to keep it warm. We are a little too
nice to have our walls papered but have
them and the ceiling lined with canvas.
Though we have hardly had time to
"fix up" if you will call tomorrow I think
we will show you that we are pretty good
housekeepers.

We have built a new church since
I came back or rather they have for
I worked none on it. It is large enough
to accommodate all who wish to attend.
Last Sabbath it was dedicated and we
had quite a good dedication sermon preached
by a private of the Regt.
It is very cold here and has been for a

week. The ground is frozen in some places
six inches deep, which I think must be
quite cold for this country. There was about
one inch of snow fell a week ago and
some of it is on the ground yet. But we
have had no sleighing and I hope we won't
have here for we are not fixed to enjoy it.
I am very glad to hear that you have
good sleighing and are enjoying it. I
pity you too just to think you are "so
sleepy" How in the world do you stand
it? I am sorry you could not attend
the festival. I am sure you would have
enjoyed it so much. You say you hope
the will close soon so there will be
some "fellows" around. I hope so too.
I would not mind being around
occasionally myself. I think too that
we may reasonably expect the war
to close now soon almost every
mail brings us some good news.
and though it seemed that we were
checked for a moment at Fort Fisher
it was only a moment and the

Fart is now ours. Six months more
of such success as we have had for
the past six and the rebels will have
hardly a gun or a soldier and of course
the war will virtually be over and I
cannot see why we may not expect
even greater success to come for we
are constantly growing stronger and
they ^{weakly} I am sorry we have to call for
more men but believing it to be
the best policy I am glad to know that
it is adopted. I hope if there is a draft that
Rose will miss it but if he does not I
suppose he will have to do as the rest
of us make the best of it. Though I
hope he may not have to go on his
own account still more do I hope it
on account of the rest. But it is growing
late and I have let the fire go down so
I am getting cold and must ^{wish} you
good night with much sleep and happy
dreams.

Your Loving Brother
Thomas.

Sunday. This is a beautiful bright day out but
it is still quite cold. I have been to meeting
and now must add a little more to my
letter and prepare it for the mail. for it has

already been longer than usual since I wrote
but I delayed from day to day hoping each
day to get a letter. - Those pants come yesterday.
By the way I want a couple of skins of
fine silk one of sky blue and one of dark
blue Send them the next letter for I cannot
get them here. That is almost our only in-
convenience at this Post. we have no chance
to buy such little articles as we often need.
However we will put up with that and
I think it likely we will have to do
so for there are no troops here now
except our Regt and as the post is not
likely to be evacuated we are likely to
remain here. Who knows though? We may
be relieved and be hundreds of miles
from here before a week.

You say Father is storing his corn. I
have here of course a very ^{little} chance to know
much about those things but from the
little I can learn my advice to him
would be to sell not only his corn but every

thing else he has ready for the market
though perhaps I am wrong. —

Within the past week there have been
about thirty rebel deserters come in at
this post among them one Lieut. Col.
and some Captains, and to day there
were two Lieutenants came in. Surely
they begin to think it time to repent
and flee the wrath to come. A very
wise conclusion I think don't you?

I have received letters from nearly
all my friends since I came back i.e.
those to whom I have written. I have not
written to Bec but must. Give my love
to all my friends in Champaign.

I ~~take~~ believe I have written enough
for once and beside that it is dinner
time, so with much love to all

Sweet by

Thomas

Mouth of White River, Ark.

January 28th, '65.

Sister Sallie:

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Thomas.